REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36 are presently active in this application, Claims 32 and 33 having been amended by way of the present Preliminary Amendment. No new matter is added.

Examination on the merits and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number 22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 08/03)

MM:jm I:\USER\MSMOR\NIKON\245672\PREAME.DOC

Masayasti Mori Attorney of Record Registration No. 47,301

> James D. Hamilton Registration No. 28,421